

502 Fisherman's Road  
Norfolk, VA 23503-5510  
2 May 2002

Ms. Katherine Benham  
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP  
South Building, Room 4008  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0020

RE: POULTRY INDUSTRY'S HIJACKING OF ORGANIC STANDARDS

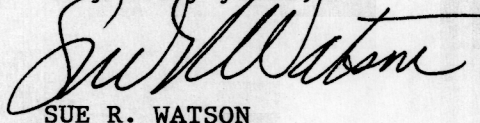
DEAR MS. BENHAM:

An alert today from the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) of which I am a long-time member informs me that the large factory farms are falsely trying to use the term "organic" for their chickens. It is a well known fact with animal rights organizations and advocates that these farms raise their chickens in extremely inhumane and unsanitary conditions. They should never be allowed to use the word "organic" to exploit these poor chickens. Please ensure that the NOSB Livestock Committee does not allow any representatives of these factories on this Committee!

By getting one of their representatives on this Committee, these inhumane and disgusting factory farms will only continue their terribly inhumane practices. They will continue to do their immeasurable harm to both the animals and our environment. PLEASE DENY THE "ORGANIC" LABEL TO THESE FACTORY FARMS!! These farms continuously violate the most fundamental rules of humane principles. They should definitely not be awarded the designation of "organic" for their chickens, when in fact, these chickens are fed high doses of antibiotics and are confined in terrible conditions.

Thank you for your interest in my comments and my letter. Please make a difference for all those chickens and animals who cannot speak for themselves.

Very truly yours,



SUE R. WATSON

Katherine Benham  
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0020



Dear Ms. Benham

I am writing to ask that you DENY the organic label to factory farms.

It is a shame that animals should have to live this way and I don't want to be "fooled" into thinking that the food that I buy is organically grown or free range when it really is not or has not been.

An industry that thrives on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bisson

25 Sixth St.

Dracut, MA 01826

MAY 15 2002

16107 Chancery Place  
Tampa, FL 33613  
813-264-1101

May 1, 2002

Katherine Benham  
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP  
Room 4008 South Building  
1400 Independence Ave SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0020

Dear Ms. Benham,

I am writing to respectfully urge the National Organic Standards Board Livestock Committee to deny the organic label to factory farms. Organic standards should require the humane treatment of animals. The intensive confinement systems and other cruel methods used on factory farms simply cannot be regarded as humane. The American consumer already associates the organic label with humaneness. Putting an organic label on factory farmed animals creates an illusion that is inaccurate and should be unacceptable.

As a consumer who always looks for the organic label, I need to have confidence that the humane standards have not been weakened or left out. Please do not allow factory farms to benefit from the organic label because consumers, animals, and the environment will all be the losers.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Lana Smithson*  
Lana Smithson



Katherine Benham  
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP  
Room 4008 S. Building  
1400 and Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0020



Action for Animals  
Whitman College  
Walla Walla, WA  
99362

Dear Ms Benham,

Please DENY the organic label to  
factory farms. An industry that thrives on  
inhumane confinement and the overuse of  
antibiotics has no business using the  
"organic" label. The factory farming industry's  
attempts at creating an illusion of humaneness  
and good health are outrageous and disingenuous.

Sincerely,

Kathy M. K. L.  
Kathryn Krummeck

Jeff Kneib

Jeff Kneib

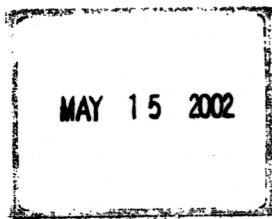
Annelise Heinz  
Annelise Heinz

Siena Whitman



ALMA F. BLACKWELDER

54 Forest Oaks  
Durham, NC 27705



May 2, 2002

Ms. Katherine Benham  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
South Building, Room 4008  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0020

Dear Ms. Benham:

I am writing to urge you to deny the organic label to factory farms.

An industry that thrives on the overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems should not be able to use the "organic" label.

Sincerely,

*Alma Blackwelder*

Alma Blackwelder



## United Poultry Concerns, Inc.

P.O. Box 150, Machipongo, Virginia 23405-0150

Phone: 757-678-7875 • Fax: 757-678-5070

Web Site: [www.upc-online.org](http://www.upc-online.org)

MAY 15 2002

3 May 2002

Richard Mathews, Program Manager  
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP  
Room 4008 South Building  
1400 and Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0020

Re: National standards for organic poultry

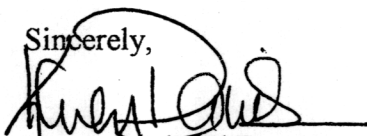
United Poultry Concerns is a national nonprofit organization that promotes the compassionate and respectful treatment of domestic fowl. We respectfully submit to your attention our response to your call for final comments on husbandry standards for organic poultry. We oppose labeling birds raised in intensive confinement buildings "organic."

Birds labeled "organic" should be raised in a clean, outdoor environment, preferably in a rotational system to avoid the build-up of manure and pathogens. The birds should have ample opportunities to perform their natural behaviors including foraging, dustbathing, sunbathing, perching, and (if adults) nesting. They should be provided with shaded areas in the form of bushes, trees, and/or other shelters from heat and summer sun. They should have continuous access to clean fresh water and food, including grass and/or other greens such as cabbages, kale, Romaine, collards, and other green leafy vegetables. The birds should have predator-proof housing for roosting at night and, perhaps ideally, a predator-proof outdoor range with overhead netting. They should have plenty of room to move about freely.

We submit these comments with a view to reducing the welfare abuses to which birds raised for meat and egg production are subjected including filthy litter, excretory-ammonia permeated buildings, lack of activities suited to the normal behavior patterns of gallinaceous birds, lack of natural sunlight, and deprivation of the outdoors. "Organic" poultry should never be debeaked or subjected to the food deprivation practice known as forced molting.

Please do not hesitate to contact United Poultry Concerns for further information at 757-678-7875. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Karen Davis, PhD  
President

*A non-profit public information organization addressing the use of poultry in  
food production, science, education and entertainment*

MAY 15 2002

**REGARDING: Poultry Industry Organic Standards**

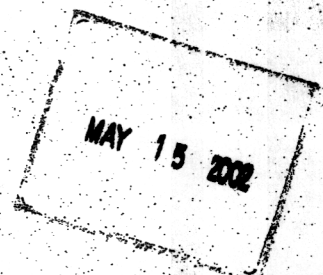
This is to protest the Factory farming industry attempt to use "organic" labels on chickens that they raise in extremely inhumane, and unhealthy conditions. Inasmuch as the National Organic Standards Board Livestock Committee establishes national standards for organic poultry, the Committee is put under intense pressure from giant corporations to allow them to use the "organic" designation on their poultry. The public has a right to know that the "organic" label has *truth and honesty* behind it, and the public must be protected from industry lies and distortions. Please DENY the organic label to factory farms. If not, you will be derelict in your duty as a USDA enforcer. The American public is very cynical about our government and its various department heads. Too often money interferes with their sworn duty to uphold high standards of honesty and decency. Please restore our faith in the USDA and its employees, by not letting the poultry industry deceive the American public. Thank you.

*Irene Slater*

Irene Slater  
4228 E Chaparosa Way  
Cave Creek AZ 85331-3818



Bonnie B. Robbins  
154 Lake Washington Blvd. E.  
Seattle, Washington 98112



May 2, 2002

Katherine Benham  
USDA - AMS - TMP - NOP  
Rm 4008 - South Bldg  
1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington DC 20250-0020

Dear Mrs. Benham,

Please convince the NOSB Livestock Committee to deny the organic label to factory farms. The pathetic creatures which must endure the factory farm conveyor belts do not deserve an "organic label." They are wretched, tortured and miserable existing in severe, constant inhumane confinement. There is nothing healthy or wholesome about those creatures. The farmers should not benefit from deceiving the public.

Please help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Robbins

MAY 15 2002

May 1, 2002

Katherine Benham  
USDA - AMS - TMP - NOP  
Room 4008 - South Bldg.  
1400 and Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0020

Dear Ms. Benham:

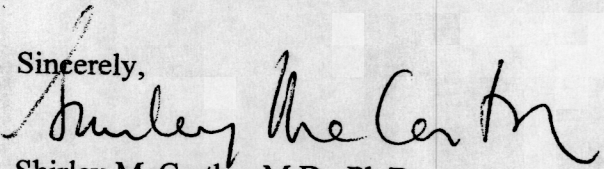
I am writing this letter to ask that you DENY the organic label to factory farms.

Factory farming industry members are trying to assume the "organic" label and use it on chickens that they raise in extremely inhumane, factory farming conditions. The factory farming industry's attempt at creating an illusion of humaneness and good health is outrageous and disingenuous. If this is allowed, it will only strengthen an industry that does immeasurable harm to animals and the environment.

Industries that thrive on overuse of antibiotics and inhumane confinement systems has no business using the "organic" label.

Thank you in advance for considering my comments and for responding promptly to my request.

Sincerely,

  
Shirley McCarthy, M.D., Ph.D.



1 May '02

MAY 15 2002



Please deny the  
organic label to  
factory farms.

~~Factory~~ farms cruelly  
confine animals and  
factory farms overuse  
antibiotics. Therefore  
factory farms are  
NOT organic. Thank you.

Katherine Benham

USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP

Room 4008 South Bldg.

1400 and Independence

Avenue, SW

Washington DC

20250-0020

Laura Winkle